

ABSTRACT

Disclosed is a system for detecting an acute myocardial infarction (i.e., a heart attack) at the earliest possible time and promptly warning the patient that he should immediately seek medical care. The present invention includes an implantable electronic system that can sense a change in the patient's electrogram that is indicative of a heart attack. If a heart attack is sensed, the device would then cause an implantable and/or externally located alarm to be actuated to warn the patient of his condition and a medical practitioner at a remote diagnostic center would receive the patient's electrogram for analysis. The patient or a caretaker would then be informed to self-inject medication through a subcutaneous, pass-through drug port that can be a separate device or integrated into the implanted device that is designed for the early detection of a heart attack. Since an implantable heart pacemaker or defibrillator already has within its structure many of the elements required for the device to recognize a heart attack, it would be expeditious to add a capability to these existing devices to detect a heart attack, have a pass-through drug port and provide an implantable and/or external alarm means to inform the patient to take appropriate action.